FIREPRO ANALYSIS

The following information provides an overview of the National Park Service's FIREPRO program planning and budget analysis system. Specific details on required data entries and associated computer programs used in the DOI Shared Applications Computer System (http://fire.nifc.nps.gov/webterm/fire.asp)to facilitate the FIREPRO analyses are provided in the ***FIREPRO Users' Guide***. Because funding structure of the various accounts may change periodically with a new fiscal year, FIREPRO account structure is addressed in timely memoranda under Section 2.1, of the ***NPS Fire Management Compendium***. Guidelines for managing and tracking these funds are contained in Chapter 18, Fire Financial Programs, of this reference manual.

FIREPRO GOALS

FIREPRO is an automated fire management budget planning and programming system developed by the National Park Service. It is designed to quantify the *Most Efficient Level* (MEL) financial support requirements for fire management activities at all organizational levels through common analyses of workload and program complexity. MEL is defined as the minimum level of staffing and program support that will achieve program performance targets for wildland fire suppression. In addition, FIREPRO identifies the minimum staffing and program support that will achieve program performance targets for wildland fire managed for resource benefits, hazard fuels reduction and prescribed fire use to restore the natural role of fire to achieve resource management objectives. FIREPRO program performance targets are not based on a marginal cost analysis system, because the National Park Service mission is centered on land stewardship and public enjoyment of the resource rather than on resource utilization and commodity valuations. The National Park Service does not attempt to establish dollar values for resources lost to wildland fire, such as historic buildings, archeological sites, endangered species and special biological communities.

Program performance targets include:

1. Achieve 95 percent success in initial attack on wildland fire suppression actions in the normal year. The normal year is the third highest occurrence year in the past 10 years of record. The success rate for each park is evaluated, and the analysis logic is changed to correct deficiencies, especially deficiencies experienced by parks with similar workload and complexity profiles.

2. Ability to carry out all hazard fuels reduction projects judged to be effective in significantly mitigating hazards and reducing long-term suppression expenditures. These projects are identified in fire management and resource management plans. The FIREPRO software

allows these projects to be ranked according to resources at risk criteria in order to establish funding and scheduling priority. Hazardous fuels are those that, when ignited, threaten public safety, structures and facilities, cultural and natural resources, natural processes and to permit the spread of wildland fires across administrative boundaries, except as authorized by agreement.

3. Capability to successfully monitor and manage all wildland fire managed for resource benefits with NPS monitoring resources, according to prescription requirements for each park program.

4. Ability to successfully carry out all prescribed fires that will significantly contribute to maintaining ecosystem health and prevent hazardous fuels from developing. These projects are identified in fire management and resource management plans. The FIREPRO software allows these projects to be ranked according to resources at risk criteria in order to establish funding and scheduling priority. All projects must pass a statistical cost reasonableness screen. This screen identifies projects that fall statistically within acceptable cost variance. This screen is also applied to hazardous fuel reduction projects.

5. Ability to monitor the short and long-term effects of all prescribed fire programs to ensure that goals and objectives are being achieved, and to provide feedback into the adaptive management process.

6. Maintain adequate permanent staff to provide planning and oversight for all phases of park, cluster, support office, and regional fire management programs. The FIREPRO analysis identifies the type, number, and location of permanent staffing needs for program management in both suppression preparedness; wildland fire managed for resource benefits and prescribed fire management. It also identifies the type, number, and location of temporary staffing needs for initial attack preparedness, wildland fire managed for resource benefits monitoring, fire effects monitoring, prescribed fire, and other types of hazard fuel reduction projects.

7. Ability to provide qualified personnel to meet internal incident management requirements for overhead teams.

8. Ability to provide aircraft and fire engine support for initial and extended attack wildland fire suppression operations, and for prescribed fire operations. This performance target includes maintaining a working capital fund to amortize and replace fire engines.

9. Ability to fund all requirements for interagency shared preparedness resources.

The scope and complexity of programs at the park level determine optimal national and regional office support programs.

Program needs are prioritized by means of workload and complexity point scores for each organizational unit, risk scores for hazard fuel reduction projects, and benefit scores for ecological prescribed burning. The total funding and Full Time Equivalency (FTE) needs for staffing, program support, and project management is the most efficient program. Any funding and FTE deficiencies in the current year appropriation are used to formulate out-year budget requests.

PRINCIPLES OF FIREPRO

FIREPRO is based on the following principles of fire program management:

1. Permanent and seasonal staffing should be based on the normal-year workload and the complexity of the fire program at all organization levels.

2. Workload and complexity should be measured by common standards applied to individual programs. Workload is measured by key indicators such as the number of wildland fires, length of fire season, the number of prescribed fires, and the annual acres burned or planned for prescribed fires. Program complexity is measured by key indicators such as resources at risk from wildland fire, the burning conditions under which most fires burn, fuel types, the probability of prescribed fire escape, the risk to resources from an escape, smoke impacts, and the difficulty of achieving desired fuel reduction objectives.

3. The normal fire year is an appropriate standard for measuring program workload, and that the normal year will be calculated separately from wildland fires managed for resource benefit and for suppressed wildland fires. The normal year for suppressed wildland fires is the year with the third highest number of wildland fires in the past ten years of record. The normal wildland fire managed for resource benefits year is the year with the third highest number of acres burned by wildland fire managed for resource benefits in the past ten years of record. Programming is based on the normal rather than the greatest workload year because it is not cost effective to staff "up front" for the worst case scenarios in fire management. In most cases the relationship between fire occurrence levels in different years is not a linear one. For example, in Yosemite, which has the highest wildland fire occurrence of any park, the highest year had about twice as many fires as the third highest. Wildland fire managed for resource benefits follow a similar pattern. Staffing for the worst case scenario would cost about twice as much as the current program, with minimal added value in most years. Some wildland fires will always escape initial attack under severe weather and fuel moisture conditions, or where unnaturally severe fuel conditions exist.

   In worst case years, the National Park Service relies on the interagency pool of firefighting resources, and inter-park and inter-regional wildland fire managed for resource benefits resources. Interagency agreements provide for such sharing of resources, based on the philosophy that not all agencies will be above the normal year during the same year.

Prescribed fire projects are the exception to the normal fire year logic. The NPS must be capable of fully staffing and funding all approved projects since these are planned events.

4. The most efficient program level should be based on an analysis of both wildland fire and prescribed fire workload and complexity. Hazard fuels reduction is, in many cases, as important or more important than additional firefighting resources in reducing suppression costs and resource losses.

5. A 95 percent success target for initial attack represents the point of diminishing returns for preparedness staffing. Since some wildland fires will occur under extreme conditions, and others will occur in large clusters of up to 40 at one time in a single park, it is impractical to expect all initial attacks to be successful. The 95 percent level has not been tested empirically as the MEL, but the NPS believes that a success rate above this level would require a vast increase in preparedness resources that would not be needed in most years.

6. Wildland fire managed for resource benefits monitoring and management requirements are set at the 100 percent level because these resources cannot presently be drawn from an interagency pool as easily as suppression resources. During above normal years, parks can utilize resources from other parks, from the inter-regional prescribed fire support modules, and prescribed fire support teams funded through FIREPRO.

7. Hazard fuels reduction and ecosystem management prescribed burning projects lower the target levels for suppression preparedness resources and reduce overall program cost. The relationship between hazard fuels reduction and wildland fire suppression cost savings has not been established empirically. Until this can be done, FIREPRO will include those projects that will reduce significantly the risk to resources and that are identified in land management plans. Hazard fuels reduction and ecological prescribed burning projects from all parks are ranked based on common risk and benefit criteria.

8. The National Park Service should be able to provide qualified incident overhead team personnel to meet the incident workload requirements of the past 5 years.

9. Aircraft and engine support requirements should be based on the number, accessibility, and burning characteristics of wildland fires.

10. FIREPRO analyses should be designed to identify baseline-staffing needs and funding support requirements, but the programming system should remain responsive to unusual needs that might fall outside the bounds of the baseline analyses. Since no model or analysis formula can accommodate the full range of baseline needs, management must be able to override the analysis in some cases.

FUNCTIONAL AREAS COVERED BY FIREPRO

The FIREPRO analyses determine program staffing and budget support requirements for the following functional areas of fire management:

1. permanent and career seasonal staffing for program oversight
2. national coordination and support
3. regional coordination and support
4. seasonal staffing and support for wildland fire initial attack
5. project funding for ecological prescribed burning
6. project funding for hazardous fuel reduction
7. temporary staffing and support for wildland fire managed for resource benefits management
8. temporary staffing and support for fire effects monitoring
9. training
10. capital equipment
11. interagency shared resources
12. Working Capital Fund
13. Fire facilities deferred maintenance and construction

STRUCTURE OF THE FIREPRO ANALYSES

Permanent Staffing In Parks: FIREPRO identifies the optimum permanent staffing needed to oversee fire management activities identified in park fire management plans. For parks the analysis criteria include:

1. The number of suppressed wildland fires in the normal year

2. The length of the fire season (defined as the cumulative 10-day periods during the year when a park experiences at least 10 unplanned ignitions based on ten years of record).

3. Values at risk from wildland fire, including real property and special resources (e.g. threatened or endangered species, historic structures, archeological resources, and endangered ecosystems)

4. The average acres prescribed burned in the highest five years of the last seven years and the complexity level of these prescribed fires.

5. The number of prescribed fires in the five years used to calculate the average acres burned.

6. The acres burned by wildland fire managed for resource benefits in the normal year and the complexity level of these wildland fire managed for resource benefits

7. The potential acres that could be burned by wildland fire managed for resource benefits in one year.

8. The average annual acres of mechanical fuels treatment in the last five years and the complexity of these projects.

9. The average annual acres of mechanical fuels treatment proposed for the next five years and the complexity of these projects.

   Based on the analysis, parks may qualify for one or more professional, technical, or administrative positions.

Preparedness Staffing and Support For Wildland Fire Initial Attack. This program element includes seasonal firefighters required to satisfy initial attack needs during the normal wildland fire year along with the supplies, non-capital equipment and other costs of supporting the seasonal initial attack function. A separate analysis is performed for each FIREPRO park. Analysis criteria include:

1. Number of wildland fires in the normal fire year
2. Primary fuel model associated with the base weather station
3. 90th percentile of the burning index derived from the base weather station
4. Length of the fire season

The number of wildland fires determines the number of initial attack responses required during the fire season. The primary fuel model and the 90th percentile of the burning index are indicators of the potential wildland fire severity, which determines the number of firefighters required to stage a successful initial attack. The length of the fire season determines the length of time FIREPRO will support the initial attack operation. Wildland fires that occur outside of fire season must be managed by other permanent and/or seasonal staff qualified in wildland fire suppression.

FIREPRO determines the number of firefighters and length of seasonal employment from the above criteria. The grade levels of these firefighters are determined from a table that displays the relationship between the number of authorized positions and array of grade levels. The grade level array is used by the analysis to calculate funding for salaries and benefits. Parks are not required to hire the exact number and grade levels of firefighters identified by the analysis, but must remain within the calculated funding and FTE limits. Program support funding is calculated as a percentage of base salaries and benefits at step one, and includes vehicles, supplies, equipment, travel, utilities, etc.

All FIREPRO parks that fail to qualify for seasonal firefighters may still receive funding for fire cache supplies and equipment. FIREPRO parks are those subject to wildland fire, even if only on an occasional basis.

Wildland Fire Use: This element includes seasonal staff and support required to monitor wildland fire managed for resource benefits and to perform holding actions necessary to keep wildland fire managed for resource benefits` in prescription. Analysis criteria include:

1. Number of wildland fire managed for resource benefits in the normal year
2. Average complexity score for wildland fire managed for resource benefits occurring in the normal year
3. Average size of wildland fire managed for resource benefits occurring in the normal year
4. Total number days during which wildland fire managed for resource benefits were burning in the normal year
5. Length of the wildland fire managed for resource benefits season

FIREPRO determines the number of seasonal monitors and length of seasonal employment from the above criteria. The grade levels of these monitors are determined from a table that displays the relationship between the number of authorized positions and array of grade levels. FIREPRO calculates funding needs for routine daily operational requirements, such as vehicle rental, telephones and supplies and materials as a percentage of the base salary and benefits.

Fire Effects Monitoring: Parks using prescribed burning are required to conduct short and long-term fire effects monitoring to determine changes and trends in fuel loading and vegetative composition through time. Although some of these changes may be subtle, they may be critical indicators of whether the prescribed burning program is meeting its goals and objectives. Analysis criteria include:

1. Number of fire effects monitoring plots to be re-surveyed each year stratified by fuel model
2. Number of fire effects monitoring plots to be established each year stratified by fuel model
3. Miles of road in the park
4. Acres in prescribed fire zone

FIREPRO determines the number of fire effects seasonal monitors and length of seasonal employment from the above criteria. The grade levels of these monitors are determined from a table that displays the relationship between the number of authorized positions and array of grade levels. FIREPRO calculates funding needs for routine daily operational requirements, such as vehicle rental, telephones and supplies and materials as a percentage of the base salary and benefits.

Career Seasonal Staffing. The growing complexity of fire management programs has required a great increase in training and skills for fire personnel. It has become increasingly evident that the Service cannot continue to attract the necessary skilled personnel nor maintain program continuity without providing the longer employment period and benefits associated with additional career seasonal positions.

FIREPRO identifies key seasonal positions that should be converted to career status based on the following criteria:

1. Supervision of complex equipment, such as helicopters and fire engines.

2. Supervision of either firefighting or monitoring crews.

The analysis then converts these positions to a minimum of 13 pay periods, and increases their benefits accordingly.

The following positions are identified for conversion to Permanent Less than Full Time (PLFT):

1. Crew Supervisor
2. Engine Foreman
3. Lead Monitor for Wildland Fires Managed for Resource Benefits
4. Lead Fire Effects Monitor
5. Helitack Supervisor

Permanent Staffing in Regional and Support Offices Permanent staff in regional and support offices are responsible for coordinating fire programs for all FIREPRO parks, providing direct support for parks without permanent fire management staff, and providing intra and inter-agency coordination, including mobilizations for major wildland fire emergencies.

For regions/SOs the analysis criteria include:

Coordination Workload
- Number of FIREPRO parks in the region/SO
- Number of permanent, professional fire staff in parks included in the region/SO

Direct Support Workload
- Normal year number of wildland fires in parks without fire management officers
- Length of regional fire season
- Normal year number of acres burned by wildland fire managed for resource benefits and prescribed fires in parks without fire management officers

Program Complexity
- Total prescribed fire points for all parks within the region/SO cluster
- Number of suppression wildland fires larger than 100 acres in the normal year

Based on the analysis, regional offices may qualify for one of more qualified technical positions.

Regional/Support Office Activities Regional/SO coordination and support funding needs are determined by individual program requirements and interagency obligations. These include:

- interagency coordination within the region
- site visits to parks for direct oversight, fire management planning and program reviews
- training for all personnel involved in fire management team assignments on project wildland fires and prescribed fires, and personnel monitoring wildland fire managed for resource benefits
- interagency shared resources, including retardant bases, smokejumper bases, area coordination centers, aerial fire detection and helicopters for initial and extended attack
- capital equipment needs for parks
- fire cache needs for parks that do not qualify for FIREPRO-funded staffing

National Program Activities National staffing needs are determined by the workloads associated with administrative support, interagency coordination, training, and program support in the technical areas of prescribed fire, wildland fire suppression, wildland fires managed for resource benefits, training, fire technology and research.

National coordination and support funding is determined by individual program requirements and interagency obligations. These include:

- interagency coordination activities in Washington and at the National Interagency Fire Center
- site visits for park and SO program reviews
- administrative support activities within the agency and Department
- training course development
- task forces to develop and review policy and procedures
- operation of the Shared Applications Computer System, which hosts the FIREPRO analysis software and other custom fire applications
- maintenance of wide-area communications systems

Analyzing Clusters of Parks In addition to analyzing individual park, regional and SO needs, parks can be analyzed as part of a cluster under unified fire management administration. The cluster analysis is useful in addressing the needs of small parks that fail to demonstrate the workload and complexity to justify staffing on their own, but which can receive cost-effective program oversight and support as part of a larger group.

Analysis of Fuels Management and Prescribed Burning Needs. Project funding for hazardous fuel reduction, ecological prescribed burning and fire effects monitoring is allocated through an individual and multi-project ranking and priority system. Criteria used in ranking hazardous fuel reduction projects include:

- public safety considerations
- fuel type/fire behavior
- degree of risk to natural resources, cultural resources or natural processes from wildland fire starting in the hazardous fuels
- facilities at risk from wildland fires starting in the hazardous fuels
- developments or other values at risk outside a park boundary from wildland fires starting in the hazardous fuels inside a park
- legislative and administrative mandates directing a park to address hazardous fuel problems

Ecological prescribed burning projects are fire management activities designed to enhance the management of natural resources. In some projects prescribed burning is used to simulate, as closely as feasible, the ecological effects of the burning pattern, intensity and timing of natural fires that cannot be allowed to burn because of boundary considerations, air quality concerns or other administrative constraints. Prescribed fire is also used to reestablish or maintain landscapes of cultural significance. These projects are ranked according to the following criteria:

- legislative and administrative mandates directing a park to address the resource problem
- alternatives to prescribed burning available to park managers
- urgency of resource threat if prescribed burning is not performed

- cost growth rate in subsequent years if projects are left unfunded

Ranking scores are used to assign funding priorities for both hazardous fuel reduction and ecological prescribed burning projects. Parks and regional offices may assign override priorities that are considered in the budget allocation process.

Training FIREPRO funds are used to train wildland and prescribed fire crewmembers, as well as personnel to fill overhead positions on wildland fire incidents and prescribed fire projects. The development of fire overhead personnel is based on the philosophy that the National Park Service should provide qualified personnel to manage its average incident requirements over past five years. Training needs are determined by comparing overhead position requirements with the number of personnel currently qualified to fill the various overhead positions.

Capital Equipment The capital equipment component of FIREPRO is designed to identify both major and minor equipment needs for all wildland fire management during the out-year budget call. By NPS administrative standards, capital equipment is any sensitive item requiring assignment of a permanent NPS property number. Non- critical equipment may also be listed in this program area if it does not logically fit elsewhere in the FIREPRO budget computer programs. The following related categories exist in, or influence the FIREPRO budget process:

- Capital Equipment, less than $1,500 (<$1,500): NPS units (parks, regions, SO's) identify and list capital equipment needs for individual items equal to, or less than $1,500 in value. For example, this could include such items as chainsaws, camera equipment, computer printers, Global Positioning Systems (GPS), upgrading the suspension on a light engine, etc.

- Capital Equipment, greater than $1,500 (>$1,500): NPS unit identifies, lists, and prioritizes capital equipment needs for individual item equal to or greater than $1,500 in value. These may include such items as: portable pumps, slip-on pumper units, engines, Remote Automatic Weather Station (RAWS), computer systems, more expensive GPS units, costly land Sat photographs/imagery, utility body for truck, etc.

- Working Capital Fund (WCF) Program: This amortization program for routinely scheduled replacement of wildland fire engines and water tenders was established in 1996 and incorporates a pre-determined listing of wildland apparatus that are targeted for replacement by the WCF. The NPS WCF Program Manager in the Fire Management Program Center will, on an annual basis, request appropriate funding to cover the cost of replacing the pre-determined apparatus scheduled for replacement in the coming fiscal year. Annual budget requests by the WCF manager will be based on the original 1996 listing of recommended park apparatus, and any subsequent critical recommendations made by the regional fire management officers. By nature and necessity, the long-range planning and budget restrictions for the overall program leaves little room for adding new engines or

tenders to the long-term replacement schedules. Because of this limitation, parks can still request capital equipment (>$1,500) funds to replace those engines and tenders not covered by the WCF schedule. Additional information regarding the WCF program and the associated replacement schedules can be obtained from regional fire management officers and the WCF Program Manager.

Typically, annual amortization payments (Fixed Ownership Rates/"FOR's") are covered by the National-level FIREPRO account with some exceptions:

1. FIREPRO base-funded parks (those with FIREPRO permanent staffing) will see 10% of the annual FOR automatically deducted from their support funding starting in the first fiscal year following delivery of the new apparatus.

2. Early in the program development, some cost-share agreements were established between the WCF and the Pacific Great Basin (PGSO) ONPS Equipment Replacement Program for purchase of combination structural/wildland fire engines. As a result, the PGSO ONPS program is billed on an annual basis for their cost-share percentage of the annual FOR. A moratorium has been placed on including any additional cost-share, besides those already identified in WCF schedules, until NPS addresses service-wide structural fire management program direction, standards, and completes an associated needs assessment for these types of specialized equipment

Fairshare Resources. The National Park Service provides primary fairshare resources such as; Type I crews, Type III helicopter, and operates air tanker bases. It contributes funding to support a number of resources provided by other agencies, including retardant bases, smokejumper bases, detection aircraft and area coordination centers.

The need for these resources is determined through national and regional interagency coordination, and the National Park Service's fairshare contribution is determined by the percentage of time each resource is used on NPS fires.

Fire Facilities Deferred Maintenance and Construction. FIREPRO identifies and ranks deferred maintenance and new construction requirements for fire management facilities. These projects are merged into a prioritized list for the Department of the Interior and submitted as part of the annual budget request. All DOI bureaus use common project ranking criteria in this effort. Each winter parks will be requested to update their databases for inclusion in a revised consolidated list for DOI.

UPDATING MEL AND PREPARING OUT-YEAR BUDGET REQUESTS

FIREPRO is updated each year in order to remain responsive to changing fire management workloads. Any differences between the required levels of staffing and funding identified in the current analysis and those available are incorporated into the out-year funding and FTE request to the Department of the Interior.

CALCULATING FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

The analysis criteria are used as variables in a series of matrices that determine staffing and support needs. FIREPRO analyses determine the number, type and grade level and employment period of permanent and seasonal positions for all organizational levels. The program then calculates the salary, benefits, Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) and locality pay for each position and calculates the program support funding as a percentage of base salary and benefits. Program support includes items such as vehicle rental, utilities, travel, local training, supplies and equipment and administrative services.

FUNDING AND FTE MANAGEMENT

FIREPRO funds are derived from the Wildland Fire Management Appropriation contained within the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Act. Fire management funds for all the Interior agencies are appropriated to the Bureau of Land Management, which then apportions funds to each agency based on the Department's budget presentation to Congress. The Office of Management and Budget also allocates FTE separately to the fire program. These funds and FTE are separate from the ONPS appropriation, and must be utilized for fire dedicated functions. For this reason, all positions base-funded by FIREPRO must remain dedicated to the wildland fire management function. This requires that at least 80 percent of their normal tour-of-duty be spent on wildland fire activities, and that they not be assigned management of other major programs that would require more than 20 percent of their time. Expenditures and obligations for fire accounts are reported separately from ONPS accounts at the close of each fiscal year.

ALLOCATION OF FIREPRO FUNDS

The base FIREPRO analysis is run each spring, and the results are sent to each FIREPRO park. This report displays the permanent and seasonal FIREPRO staffing for each park along with the funding required to support each position. Parks have until a specified date to review the analysis and identify errors or request supplemental funding for special workload requirements falling outside the analysis. At this time, parks also request funding for capital equipment and for hazard fuel reduction and ecosystem management prescribed fire projects.

Final FIREPRO budget decisions are made in September and a final budget report is sent to each FIREPRO park. This report displays staffing, FTE, support funding, and project funding by account number. The authorized funding for each account is automatically uploaded into Federal Financial System (FFS) from the Fire Management Program Center via a computer program. FIREPRO analysis schedules are shown in Exhibit 1. Park requests are reviewed and consolidated at the regional level for submission to the FMPC.

FIREPRO DATABASE MANAGEMENT

Park Planning Master. This program gathers general and specific data about each park, some of which will be used in the FIREPRO analysis. During each budget call it is important parks review this area to ensure that the following critically needed information is current and accurate:

- Number of active lookouts
- Primary weather station
- Approval status of Fire Management Plans
- Fuel model information

Special Resources at Risk. With each annual budget call parks must review and validate the special resources data they have previously entered in this program. Special resources considered potentially at risk to wildland fires include:

- threatened, endangered, or sensitive species
- historic buildings
- archeological sites
- sensitive biological communities

Real Property at Risk. Parks should identify public and private property inside their boundary, including inholdings that are at risk from wildland fires.

Complexity Ratings for Wildland Fires Use. Each yearly analysis determines the appropriate normal fire year from the analysis-determined 10-year period. As a result, parks must review this data area to determine if applicable fires are listed and provide required complexity ratings that describe the following attributes of the listed fires:

- potential for escape
- values at risk
- fuels and fire behavior
- fire duration
- air quality

Fire Effects Data Entry. Each annual budget call will require specific data input from the parks, where applicable, to allow the analysis to establish recommended staffing needs. The parks must provide the following types of information:

- miles of roads in the park
- total acres in the prescribed fire units
- fuel model group descriptions
- remarks describing specifics of the program
- number of plots to be established next year
- number of plots to be remeasured next year
- total number of plots

Facilities Construction and Deferred Maintenance. Provides the field unit the opportunity to submit funding requests relevant to wildland fire facility needs that will be ranked and grouped with other agencies' requests as part of the annual Department of the Interior Wildland Fire budget request to Congress. Instructions for submitting these data are contained in the NPS Fire Management Compendium, Section 2.5.

HAZARDOUS FUELS AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PRESCRIBED FIRE PROJECTS

Parks develop project requests for staffing and funding support, providing specific cost and functional breakdowns and narrative descriptions of their proposed programs. Regional/Support Office fire staff have the authority to approve the programs and associated funding needs and seasonal staffing. Accomplishment reports are a requirement that provides a critical barometer of various aspects of the program, including the level of accomplishment; project efficiencies and cost-effectiveness; future actions; and potential need or justification for career staffing support. New project requests will not be approved if field units are not providing adequate accomplishment reports for projects already funded.

SUPPLEMENTAL REQUESTS (PARKS AND REGIONS)

Several opportunities are offered to both park and Regional/Support Office FIREPRO base-funded programs to request support in addition to that level already identified by the analysis; the following briefly describes these options:

Additional Seasonal and Permanent Staffing. Provides the opportunity to request tour-of-duty extensions to analysis established seasonal and permanent less-than-full-time positions; plus new or additional positions may be requested.

Capital Equipment allows the field unit to request funding for purchase of capital equipment in two categories: items less than $1,500; and items greater than $1,500 in value.

Support Fund Allocation and Requests provides the field unit the opportunity to identify how they will allocate support funds tentatively assigned by the FIREPRO analysis, and allows them to request additional funds for such program areas as: additional training expense needs; arduous physical examinations; personal protective equipment; travel; communications and utilities; vehicle expenses for Interior-owned, GSA rentals, and WCF annual FOR's; supplies/materials/cache needs; Area Cache needs for non-FIREPRO parks serviced by FIREPRO parks; premium pay and lump sum payments.

Region Requests for Park Fire Caches allows the Region or Support Office to request cache funding for non-FIREPRO parks not already serviced by the Area Cache option described above.

Budget Items Requests is specifically established for the Fire Management Program Center staff and Regional/Support Office fire staff to identify their unique support funding needs, such as: National/Regional/Interagency Meetings; Associations and Councils; training and training development; contracts; supplies and materials; research; area visitation; task group oversight; interagency fairshare program support; prevention programs; arduous duty physicals; capital equipment; and support to NPS Interagency Hot Shot Crews.